

Bishop Francis Asbury in West Virginia*

By Lawrence Sherwood

Introduction

"Whither am I going? To the New World. What to do? To gain honor? No, if I know my own heart. To get money? No: I am going to live to God, and to bring others so to do."

So Francis Asbury (1745-1816) wrote in his *Journal* on September 12, 1771 as he was starting from England to America. In the next forty-five years he not only was to be the dominant force in the shaping of American Methodism as its pioneer Bishop; he also was to become one of the greatest explorers of the American frontier.

His Journal

Asbury's part in the life of pioneer America and his observations of people and places have been in large measure hidden to recent generations. Asbury kept a daily diary or *Journal* from August 7, 1771 until December 7, 1815. Portions of this *Journal* were published during his life. The entire *Journal* was published in 1821. It was reprinted in 1852, and again reprinted about two years later. It had, thus, by 1958 been out of print for more than a hundred years, and copies had become increasingly difficult to obtain. Little wonder that present-day persons had scant knowledge of his life and importance.

Certain scholars in America knew of his *Journal* and of its meaning not only as a commentary on the beginnings of The Methodist Church, but also as a first-hand record of men and movements in the early days of the United States. Thus, when the National Historical Publications Commission of the United States Government chose sixty-six great Americans whose works should be edited and published, Asbury's name was included. The recommendation that this Commission made in 1961 was accepted by two Presidents and both Houses of Congress.

Through the recommendation and cooperation of the World Methodist Council, the *Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury*

* A paper presented by the writer at the annual meeting of the West Virginia Historical Society, Charleston, West Virginia, October 19, 1960.

were published by the Association of Methodist Historical Societies in the United States in 1958. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Elmer T. Clark; the present writer is one of the Regional Research Editors. The three-volume set of Asbury's works in this standard annotated edition is available for \$21.00 from The Methodist Publishing House, 642 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania.

On the Frontier in West Virginia

Asbury traveled where the people were. As the people moved westward, so did Asbury. In the earliest parts of the *Journal* one finds Asbury concentrating on the seaboard of what was to become the United States. Toward the end of his life his interest and travels extended as far west as Indiana.

The epitome of Asbury's constant interest in the edge of civilization can be no better shown than by the shift of emphasis in his travels in what is now West Virginia. Notice how his visits begin in the Eastern Panhandle and then move westward through rather definite phases.

Asbury's first visit to what is now West Virginia was in 1776; in July of this year he visited Berkeley Springs. This was the very year that this town was established, under the name of "Bath."

Asbury was again in West Virginia in 1781, 1782, 1783, and 1784. Each of these visits was in the Eastern Panhandle, westwardly including the present counties of Grant and Mineral. Thus, during the first eight years of Asbury's visits to West Virginia he did not get across the mountains to westward flowing water.

Asbury's first visit in West Virginia that took him across the Alleghany summit was in 1785 when he visited Morgantown. This crossing of the mountains was made, however, through Maryland rather than by a frontal attack over the West Virginia hills.

In 1786 Asbury's tour took him not only to the frontier in West Virginia but also to the frontier of the United States. In this year he visited Coxe's Fort in Brooke County in the Northern Panhandle, and from there he crossed the Ohio River. In

his *Journal* Asbury wrote: "We are now going to the frontiers, and may take a peep into the Indian land." This visit to the Northern Panhandle was an early scouting tour; he did not start regular visits to this area until after the lapse of seventeen years.

In 1788 Asbury began his assault on the mountains, south to north, as he traveled through the "devious lonely wilds." A look at a map of West Virginia shows that this south-north tour was the edge of civilization, west of the mountains that divide the waters of the Atlantic from the waters of the Mississippi. Asbury records that these tours from Monroe County in southeastern West Virginia via Morgantown to Pennsylvania were among the most difficult travels that he ever experienced in the whole of America. He drove himself and his horse over this rough terrain not only in 1788 but also in 1790, 1792, and 1796. In May 1796 he wrote: "I doubt whether I shall ever request any person . . . to accompany me across these mountains again." Asbury kept this resolve, not only because of the difficulties on this frontier, but also because the frontiers had shifted. Between 1796 and 1803 Asbury simply touched the hems of West Virginia (in Monroe and Jefferson Counties) as he toured to meet new problems and situations.

In 1803 Asbury began his long series of visits in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. In the thirteen years between 1803 and 1815, Asbury made eleven tours in the Northern Panhandle. One discovers that these tours were not only because of their importance to advancing Methodism in this area; Asbury was also in this section often as he crossed to Ohio and the further advancing frontier.

The only other area visited by Asbury in what is now West Virginia was Parkersburg, in 1810. The occasion of this visit was a Camp Meeting on the Little Kanawha. Although Wood County was now far removed from being the edge of civilization, nonetheless, pioneer conditions are reflected in Asbury's comment about his "toiling through bad roads and accidents at the ferry." His supplication tells much: "Lord, prepare me by Thy grace for the patient endurance of hunger, heat, labour, the clownishness of ignorant piety, the impudence of the impious, unreasonable preachers, and more unreasonable heretics and heresy!"

West Virginia Counties Visited

Asbury made thirty-four tours in West Virginia, starting with his visit at Bath in 1776 and ending with his stay at "John Beck's, West Liberty" in early August, 1815. In these thirty-nine years Asbury visited at least twenty-two of the present counties of West Virginia. Thus, persons interested in ecclesiastical or secular history in these counties may well find comments of interest in the *Journal*.

It is possible that Asbury was in the edge of two more counties; however, the following alphabetical list of counties is practically exhaustive, and is taken from Asbury's own records: Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor and Wood.

Places

What is your area of interest in West Virginia history? Chances are that you will find source material in Asbury's documents.

Is your hobby West Virginia Springs? You will find rich material on this subject in Asbury. There is much comment on Berkeley Springs and a lesser amount on Sweet Springs.

If your interest centers about natural curiosities, you will find a common interest with the man Asbury. In his *Journal* you will find the first written description (1781) of Hanging Rocks in Hampshire County; you will find an early description of Iman's Spring in Grant County, now the site of the Spring Run Fish Hatchery near Petersburg, of which Asbury says: "The quantity of water it discharges (is) sufficient for a mill within two hundred yards from the source"; you will find descriptions of caves that are among the earliest published descriptions of this type of natural curiosity in West Virginia.

The descriptions of early towns in West Virginia can not but arouse interest in their present-day inhabitants. Of course, many of Asbury's visits were before towns had any names at all; other visits were during times that present towns had other names; other visits were in private homes on spots that since have become towns. Thus, this listing does not include all of

the present West Virginia towns; nonetheless, the following will perhaps show the wideness of Asbury's travels and interest.

In July 1790 Asbury was riding in Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties; in his *Journal* he recorded: "On my way I premeditated the sending of a preacher to a newly-settled place in the Kenhaway county." This "newly-settled place" is more commonly called Charleston.

When Asbury visited Lewisburg in July 1790 he called it "Green Brier court house"—and further mentioned that "here some sat as critics and judges." In his quaint way, he mentions Lewisburg in his visit of May 1792 as follows: "We rode through Greenbrier by the town."

As is well known to all students of West Virginia history, the Town of Fort Ashby in Mineral County has had many official names. Asbury adds two more names for this community; in his visit of June 1781 he calls it "Dutch settlement"; in subsequent visits he calls it "Jones"—after the name of the family with whom he visited.

When Asbury visited the present site of Philippi, Barbour County, in July 1788, there was but one cabin there—that of William Anglin's. Asbury's visit in this home was not the most welcome that he ever received: "Near midnight we stopped at William Anglin's, who hissed his dogs at us; but the women were determined to get to quarterly meeting, so we went in. Our supper was tea. . . . I lay on the floor on a few deer skins with the fleas. That night our poor horses got no corn. . . ."

Asbury mentions his visit to Parkersburg, which he calls "Wood's Court House." He had many things to say about Berkeley Springs, among which was a "seat of sin." When he visited Harper's Ferry in May 1795, he wrote: "The impending rocks impress the mind of the traveller with terror; and should they fall would crush him to pieces: this scene is truly awful and romantic." When he was again in Harper's Ferry in August 1801 he noted that he "beheld with satisfaction the good plain buildings erected there by the United States."

And on he goes—visiting towns and often giving his impressions of them—to Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, Clarksburg

Morgantown, Charles Town, Wellsburg, West Liberty, Wheeling. In West Virginia, as in the nation, he "printed the map of his ministry with the hoofs of his horse."

People

Asbury had a great interest in people. He spent all of his life in the homes of others. He was at home with persons of high and low estate. In the section now known as West Virginia he found himself as guest in homes of both those who were famous and those who had been infamous.

Since Asbury's early visits occurred while Indians were still in West Virginia, he came into contact with persons who had been involved with the savages. He came to know Richard Williams, in 1781, who then lived near Romney; in the *Journal* (Volume I, page 464ff) he tells the thrilling story of the capture of Williams by the Indians. In 1788 Asbury visited Clover Lick in Pocahontas County and made reference to the work of Jacob Warwick who had built a fort there and had "made a small estate by keeping cattle, horses, &c., on the range." Asbury visited Coxe's Fort in Brooke County, in 1786, at which time the inhabitants could look across the Ohio River and see Indian lands. He visited in the home of Thomas Drinnon, in Pocahontas County, "whose wife was killed, and his son taken prisoner by the Indians." Asbury was a welcomed visitor at Cook's Fort in Monroe County—for two of the sons of the builder of this fort had become Methodist preachers.

Among the interesting references to the Indian incursions in West Virginia is his comment about the Kinnan massacre in Randolph County. The full story of this massacre may be found in Volume I, Number 1 of *West Virginia History, A Quarterly Magazine*, Charleston, October, 1939; in this publication there is an extensive article by Boyd B. Stutler as well as a reprint of the *True Narrative of the Sufferings of Mary Kinnan*. Asbury was on the spot in May 1792. He writes: "We stopped at Capt. S _____'s, where there were several families crowded together for fear of the Indians. The upper end of the valley has been depopulated, one family has been destroyed since I was last here. . . ."

In addition to his contacts with those who were in the midst of Indian activity, Asbury visited in homes of men who were leaders in their day. Perhaps this can be no better shown than

through Asbury's relationship with men who were members of the Virginia Convention which met in Richmond in June 1788 to ratify or reject the Federal Constitution. As has been often told, there were sixteen members from what is now West Virginia; the fifteen of these who voted to ratify more than made the majority of ten by which Virginia ratified the Constitution. It has been noted that it was the votes from "beyond the mountains" that aided not only Virginia but also other states to accept the Federal Constitution.

Among the sixteen men from West Virginia were the following: Isaac VanMeter from Hardy County, Abel Seymour from Hardy County, Col. George Jackson from Harrison County, Ebenezer Zane from Ohio County, and John Wilson from Randolph County. It is amazing to realize that Francis Asbury was a visitor in the homes and with the families of each of these five men!

Random comments of Asbury concerning the "famous five" include: "I had an attentive, well-behaved congregation at Squire VanMeter's." . . . He rode to Seymour's "as welcome as snow in harvest." . . . "I lodged with Col. Jackson." . . . "At Colonel Zane's, where I lodged, the aged people were kind indeed. . . . I contemplate two chapels; one of forty feet square, and the other of fifty feet; the first in Charlestown (Wellsburg), Alexander Wells to give the lot; and the other in Wheeling, the ground to be bestowed for its erection by Colonel Zane." "I preached at Wilson's. Here many careless people do not hear a sermon more than once in one or two years. . . ."

Asbury was a frequent visitor in many other homes of pioneers and patriots. He was in the home of the Hite family in the Eastern Panhandle from 1781 and after. He preached in the barn of Captain James Stroud near Martinsburg. He preached and baptized at Peter Dewit's in Mineral County—and doubtless heard of Dewit's experiences in the Revolution. He was a welcomed visitor at the home of John Jeremiah Jacob in Hampshire County—little knowing that a son of his host would later be Governor of the State of West Virginia. (See: *West Virginia History, A Quarterly Magazine*, Charleston, 1956, Vol. XVII, No. 2, January, pp. 117-137 for a biography of Jacob.) He found rest and opportunity at the home and church built by Col. Charles Martin on the West

Virginia-Pennsylvania line. He enjoyed his visits with John McNeel at the present site of Hillsboro—and probably thrilled to know that McNeel had come to this fertile area because he thought that he had killed a man “back in civilization,” and had stayed in this lovely spot even after he learned that the man had not died. He looked forward to his visits with “Father” Calder Haymond, at the present site of Fairmont; he must have been overjoyed when Calder’s son, Thomas, became a Methodist Circuit Rider.

Asbury entered a life-long friendship with Dr. Edward Tiffin while Tiffin lived in Charles Town in a house that is still extant. This friendship continued after Tiffin moved to Ohio and became the first Governor of that State.

Time would fail were we to attempt to tell the persons of interest with whom Asbury was friend—John Davenport, a Revolutionary soldier who lived in Jefferson County; John Beck, at whose home near West Liberty Asbury preached his last sermon in West Virginia; John McCullough, sheriff of Ohio County in 1776 and brother of Samuel who gained fame by his leap to escape from the Indians; Joseph Perkins, Asbury’s old “friend and neighbor,” who was the superintendent of the U. S. Armory at Harper’s Ferry; and other names by the score.

In Asbury’s *Journal* there is an almost inexhaustible mine of material for biographical and historical research. The new edition has the greatest amount of identifications and notations that space permitted. In addition to those printed in the *Journal*, the author of this paper has prepared extensive notes on West Virginia persons and places. A copy of this material may be found at the archives of the American Association of Methodist Historical Societies at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina; the author of this paper has another copy.

Conclusion

Asbury speaks to our day not only in the context of religion. He has much information and insight on the places and people of the early days of West Virginia. He lived and labored in a day when the pioneers were “but one remove from the Indians in the comforts of civilized society.” His writings will be of benefit to the local historian or to the person interested in the many facets of life in America between 1771 and 1815. The pioneer Bishop has blazed a long trail.

Editor's Corner

The Bruffey Family



BORN-POCAHONTASIAN, now living in Virginia, Rae Dowdy has submitted material on Bruffey

Family history for your present reading and for the editor's possible gleaning for the encyclopedia. The material comes as clippings from the pen and hand-set type of the late and great Cal Price and time of printing is 1933.

THE BRUFFEYS

The Bruffeys held their family reunion on Bruffeys Creek on August 26, 1933. A goodly number of the relationship was present and the occasion was greatly enjoyed by all.

John Bruffey was born in the north of Ireland in 1752. He married Nellie MacDonald, of Scotland, and they moved to America prior to the Revolution. In this war he served as a soldier under General Anthony Wayne. He was killed in the year 1807 by being thrown from a horse. The horse scared at a deer at the stone trough on the lands of M. J. McNeel. He was buried in the McNeel graveyard. His grave is marked by a stone lettered by his son John.

John and Nellie MacDonald Bruffey were the parents of three sons, Mark, John and Patrick.

Mark married a Miss Lewis and lived in Monroe county. They had a son, Rev. George; his sons were Fletcher and Samuel; the latter was the father of Mrs. George B. Minter, of Warren, Ohio, who was a missionary in China for a number of years; returning home to care for her sister's children.

John Jr. married Elizabeth Hill and settled on Bruffeys Creek. They were the parents of three sons and seven daughters — Murry, Bradford and John.

Murry married Elizabeth Craig of Nicholas county. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters. William, Robert, Richard. Elizabeth became the wife of Wesley Hill; Nancy, wife of Henry Boggs, and Margaret, wife of Haggi Denison. Deputy Sheriff R. M. Bruffey and A. W. Hill are grandsons of Murry Bruffey.

Bradford married Mary Watts of Greenbrier county. They had three sons and four daughters. Newton, late of Renick; Frank, deceased; Squire T. A. Bruffey, of Bruffeys Creek; Elizabeth Whiting; Serene Grimes, Bird Shisler, Ida Sarver.

John Bruffey III, married Margaret Hill and went west.

The daughters of John 2nd were Eliza Moore, of Edray; George P. Moore was her son. Harriet, wife of Wesley Cruikshanks, of Nicholas. Levina, wife of Clayborne Blair; went west. Mrs. Jennie Lynch of Neola, Mrs. Annie Dotson and Culbison, of the west are her children. Julia became the wife of a McClure; the late Mathew was her only son. Margaret became the wife of Morgan Anderson. They had three children. Elizabeth became the wife of Samuel McCarty, and moved to Vermont; C. J. McCarty was her son. Tho Anderson became Mrs. Shannon Clutter; Eric Clutter is their son. Dickson Anderson married Sarah McCoy. Mrs. P. C. Curry is their daughter.

Nancy Bruffey became the wife of Levi Hooker, clock-maker, and Martha Bruffey became the wife of James Ewing. Both families went to Nicholas county.

Patrick Bruffey was born May 2, 1785, and died February 3, 1853. His wife was Annie Slaven, daughter of John Slaven, head of Greenbrier River. He was a skilled workman in wood, iron and stone. He was a miller, too, and owned the mill near Greenbank. His family consisted of six daughters and two sons. Polly Mathews was born January 29, 1813, and died November 1, 1849. She became the wife of John H. Ruckman.

February 7, 1833. Her children were Caroline, wife of William J. Cuckley, of Stamping Creek; Sidney, who married Almira Campbell; their son Charles teaches Indians in Oklahoma. Nancy Catherine born April 6, 1814, died October 1, 1888; wife of Ben Ervine, and was the mother of eleven children. One son, James was a Confederate soldier and was killed in the presence of his mother.

James, born January 28, 1816, married Margaret Ann Hartman and went to Lewis county.

Elizabeth Slaven Bruffey, born March 24, 1818, became the wife of Addison Ervine and went west.

Priscilla Bruffey became the wife of Lorenson Pugh and went to Webster county.

Caroline Margaret Bruffey, born September 18, 1822, died

August 14, 1853; became the wife of James Watts Ruckman October 14, 1852. Her child was William Wallace Ruckman, who lived on Stamping Creek, where his children, D. E. and Maggie, now reside.

Sarah Ann Bruffey, born

November 7, 1824, died November 6, 1895, became the wife of James G. Hamilton, October 9, 1851. A daughter, Hester, became the wife of Robert Brown, County Surveyor. R. W. Brown is their son.

William Slaven Bruffey, born December 2, 1826, married Mary J. Hamilton, went to Missouri. He died March 14, 1873. M. R.

THE BRUFFEYS

John Bruffey was born in the north of Ireland in 1762. He married Nellie MacDonald, of Scotland, an ancestral kinsman of Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister of the British Empire. John and Nellie MacDonald Bruffey moved to America prior to the Revolution. In this war he served as a soldier under General Anthony Wayne. He was killed in the year of 1807 by being thrown from a horse. The horse scared at a deer at the stone through on the lands of M.J. McNeel. He was buried in the McNeel graveyard. His grave is marked by a stone lettered by his son, John.

To the marriage of John and Nellie MacDonald Bruffey were born three sons, Mark, John and Patrick.

Mark married a Miss Lewis and lived in Monroe County. They had a son, Rev. George Bruffeys; his sons were Fletcher and Samuel; the latter was the father of Mrs. George B. Winter of Warren, Ohio, who was a missionary in China for a number of years; returning home to care for her sister's children.

John, Jr., married Elizabeth Hill and settled on Bruffeys Creek. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters - William, Robert, Richard. Elizabeth became the wife of Wesley Hill; Nancy, the wife of Henry Boggs; and Margaret the wife of Haggai Denison. Deputy Sheriff R.M. Bruffey and A.W. Hill were grandsons of Murray Bruffey.

Bradford married Mary Watts, of Greenbrier County. They had three sons and four daughters, Newton, late of Renick; Frank, deceased; Squire T.A. Bruffey, of Bruffeys Creek; Elizabeth Whiting; Serene Grimes; Bird Shisler; and Ida Sarver.

John Bruffey, III, married Margaret Hill and went west.

The daughters of John, 2nd, were Eliza Moore, of Edray; George P. Moore was her son. Harriet, wife of Wesley Cruikshanks, of Nicholas. Levina, wife of Clayborne Blair; went west, Mrs. Jennie Lynch of Neola, Mrs. Annie Dotson and Culbinson, of the west are her children. Julia became the wife of a McClure; the late Mathew was her only son. Margaret became the wife of Morgan Anderson. They had three children. Elizabeth became the wife of Samuel McCarty and moved to Vermont. C.J. McCarty was her son. Thomas Anderson became Mrs. Shannon Clutter; Eric Clutter is their son. Dickson Anderson married Sarah McCoy; Mrs. P.C. Curry is their daughter.

Nancy Bruffey became the wife of Levi Hooker, clockmaker and Martha Bruffey became the wife of James Ewing. Both families went to Nicholas County.

Patrick Bruffey was born 2 May 1785 and died 3 Feb. 1863. His wife was Annie Slaven, daughter of John Slaven, head of Greenbrier River. He was a skilled workman in wood, iron and stone. He was a miller, too, and owned the mill near Greenbank. His family consisted of six daughters and two sons. Polly Mathews was born 29 Jan. 1813 and died 1 Nov. 1849. She became the wife of John H. Ruckman 7 Feb 1833. Her children were Caroline, wife of William J. Cackley, of Stamping Creek; Sidney, who married Almira Campbell; their son Charles taught school for the Indians in Oklahoma.

Nancy Catherine born 6 April 1814 died 1 Oct 1888; wife of Ben Ervine, and was the mother of eleven children. One son, James was a Confederate soldier and was killed in the presence of his mother.

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Sarah Ann Bruffey, born 7 Nov. 1824, died 6 Nov. 1895, became the wife of James G. Hamilton, 9 Oct. 1851. A daughter, Hester became the wife of Robert Brown; County surveyor R. W. Brown was their son.

William Slaven Bruffey, born 2 Dec. 1826, married Mary J. Hamilton and went to Missouri. He died 14 March 1873.

The Bruffeys were of an inventive turn of mind. One of the Pocahontas family worked for many years on the unsolved problem of "perpetual motion." The inventor developed a machine so finely poised that a grain of wheat would start a large wheel turning, but it could not be controlled and the longer it ran the greater became the speed, until it would finally tear itself to pieces. Bruffey's last effort was to start the wheel and watch it fling itself into fragments as it dashed off into space.

There are no millionaires among the Bruffeys, but there might have been, for it was a Bruffey who invented the hillside plow, the instrument that has probably done more to draw wealth from the soil than any other one farm implement. An unscrupulous lawyer of Washington stole the patent and thus the Bruffeys lived quietly on, content to hew

would draw water. They are pastoral people and agricultural people and have never aspired to positions of honor and trust in the affairs of state.

If you would get a correct measure of such as Tom Bruffey from old Pocahontas, pull down your Bobby Burns and read again Cotter's Saturday Night. It will be like a fresh breeze in the twilight on a summer's night, and your heart will feel ^a warm glow as you touch the soil afresh on Scotland's sunny braes.

Note: From the tombstone in the McNeel graveyard, Hillsboro, West Virginia:

JOHN BRUFFEY

Native of Ireland and Revolutionist under General Wayne, U.S.A.

Died in 1807 - aged 55 which would make his birth date 1752. This tombstone was made by his son John Bruffey and inscribed as that was his business. His wife was Nellie McDonald, English, who came before the Revolution. Children: Patrick was as far as I can find out a carpenter and contractor, Mark, was a preacher and went to Monroe Co., W.Va. John lived in Pocahontas County, buried in the Hill Cemetery, Lobelia, West Virginia

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This is the latest picture of Mrs. Mollie Bruffy, who died Monday. She is pictured here with a doll that was given her when she was a child at Calvin.

Mollie Bruffy, 61, Dies

Funeral services were to have been conducted at 2:30 today for Mrs. Mollie Bruffy, 61, wife of George Bruffy of La Frank, who died Monday morning, October 29, in the Sacred Heart Hospital.

Rev. J. E. Brown, pastor of La Frank's New Prospect Baptist Church, was to officiate, and burial was to follow in the Little Union Cemetery at Calvin with the White and Coleman Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Bruffy, a member of the New Prospect Baptist Church and of the Rebecca Lodge, was born at Calvin June 7, 1895, the daughter of the late Hamilton and Amanda Bredon.

Survivors besides her husband include one daughter, Mrs. Beulah Tonry of Cincinnati, Ohio; one brother, Ervin Bredon, also of Cincinnati; one half-brother, Justus Bredon of Morgantown; one half-sister, Mrs. Ruth Curry of Calvin.

Miscellaneous Bruffey became the wife of Larcheson Hugh and went to Webster County.

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William Slaven Bruffey, born 2 Dec. 1826, married Mary J. Hamilton and went to Missouri. He died 14 Mar. 1873. Maggie Ruckman

Bruffey Reunion

On August 25 the Bruffey family of West Virginia held a largely attended and worth reunion at Webster Springs. The following comments on the occasion are from the Webster Springs Republican.

With the arrival of the chairman of the program committee in the afternoon an hour of reminiscence was introduced by Tom Bruffey, in the course of which a brief history of the family in America was given. From this historical account we gathered a few interesting facts and likewise gathered many more from private conversations with some of the Pocahontas visitors.

Miss Maggie Ruckman seems to be the recognized historian of this family. It was revealed that a certain John Bruffey of Scotch-Irish descent came from Ireland prior to the Revolution and settled in the neighborhood of Hillsboro, about fifteen miles from Marlinton on the Greenbrier River. He brought an attractive bride from among the Shamrocks of his native heath when he came to America, whose name was Nellie McDonald, and an ancestral kinsman of Ramsay McDonald, prime minister of the British Empire. The Bruffeys have studiously avoided public statement concerning the relationship with such royal personages, but in West Virginia it is no discredit to know that Tom Bruffey, who opened this reminiscent hour is a cousin of England's great prime minister.

We learned that Bruffeys were an inventive turn of mind. One of the Pocahontas family worked for many years on the unsolved problem of "perpetual motion". The inventor developed a machine so finely ~~made~~ poised that a grain of wheat would start a large wheel turning, but it could not be controlled and the longer it ran the greater became the speed until it would finally tear itself to pieces. Bruffey's last effort was to start the wheel and watch it fling itself into fragments as it dashed off into space.

There are no millionaires among the Bruffeys, but there might have been, for it was a Bruffey who invented the hillside plow, the instrument that has probably done more to draw wealth from the soil than any other one farm implement. An unscrupulous lawyer of Washington stole the patent and thus the Bruffeys lived quietly on, content to hew wood and draw water. They are pastoral people and agricultural people and have never aspired to positions of honor and trust in the affairs of the state.

If you would get a correct measure of such men as Tom Bruffey from old Poca, pull down your Bobby Burns and read again Cotter's Saturday Night. It will be like a fresh breeze in the twilight on a summer's night, and your heart will feel a warm glow as you touch the soil afresh on Scotland's sunny braes.

Decatur, Illinois.

March 24-1897

Dr. John D. McNeil,
1127 Pine Street,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Dr. McNeil:

Your letter of the 22nd inst. arrived this A.M., in re - the Postoffice of Millpoint, W. Va., originally "Cacabyltown", and some inquiry concerning the "Cacabyl Family".

You seem to have settled at least the time that "Millpoint, Virg." (now W. Va.) became a "U. S. Post office" - known, the name of the house could have been changed earlier than the date the P.O. was established.

I have a copy of a letter written on Feb. 6-1893 by Dr. Cephus Cacabyl, Myerstown, Pa., to "Mr. H. Cacabyl" of Kancoweto, W. Va. (This was the son of Valentine Cacabyl Sr. - not the "Mr. Ca." of new Millpoint), in which he was seeking info. about the Virg. Cacabyls - and his letter contained the following paragraph = "I've lost of battle skirmishes in Va. I find the name 'Cacabyltown'. I could not find such a Postoffice - where is it? I think Mr. Cacabyl speaks of the place where at father's." =

Of course, this has reference to "Civil War Skirmishes", and this would be thirty years after the date the U. S. Dept. Records show that the town was Millpoint. (1865 - was 1835 - 30 years) Known, between 1865 and 1865 the residents and the Civil War Soldiers and correspondents, evidently still called the little village "Cacabyltown". The above listed 1893 letter was where I conceived the idea that "Cacabyltown" did not become "Millpoint" until the latter part of the Civil War, or later.

The above named "Dr. Cephus Cacabyl" was of the 4th Generation, a son of (w) Joseph (now) and Elizabeth (Turner) W., and he a son of (w) Elias (now) Cacabyl Sr., a son of "Jacob Cacabyl Sr. (1701-1788), W. Virg. Gen. No. 1.

You ask the privilege to look over my "Cacabyl" data at some time - and that "Bill" Cacabyl may have given me much of this material.

"Bill" had sent me no data, until a letter came on March 22nd - in which he sent info. for his Branch, his parents, great parents, and great grand parents (Gen. No. 3) - of Levi (now) Sr. and Nancy (now) (Bridges) Cacabyl. He sent no data, not even names, for his grandfathers (w) James Ca) 3 Brothers and 2 Sisters.

I note that you are compiling a "History of the McNeil Family". Therefore, I am wondering how far back you may know about the original "Cacabyl Ancestors" who came to the "Valley" - and if you have about the exact spellings of the original Family name of "Cacabyl", namely - "Hecabyl" - "Kecabyl" & "Cacabyl"?

Again I forgetful - you are welcome to come look over my (now)

Decatur, Illinois.

March 24-1957

Dr. John D. McNeil,
1127 Pine Street,
St. Louis 1, Mo.

Dear Dr. McNeil:

Your letter of the 22nd inst. arrived this a.m., in re - the Postoffice of Millpoint, W. Va., originally "Cacabetytown", and some inquiry concerning the "Cacabety Family".

You seem to have settled at least the time that "Millpoint, W. Va." (not W. Va.) became a "U. S. Post office" - however, the name of the town could have been changed earlier than the date the PO was established.

I have a copy of a letter written on Feb. 6-1893 by "Dr. Cephus Kacabety", Meyersville, Ky. to "Wm. H. Cacabety" of Ranceville, W. Va. (This Wm. H. is the son of (B) Valentine Cacabety Sr. - not the "Wm. H. of near Millpoint", in which he was seeking info. about the Virg. Cacabety) - and his letter contained the following paragraph = "I saw a list of battle skirmishes in Va. I find the name 'Cacabetytown'. I could not find such a Postoffice - where is it? I think Wm. Cacabety spoke of the place where his father's ="

Of course, this has reference to "Civil War Skirmishes", and this would be thirty years after the date the U. S. Dept. Records show that the town was Millpoint. (1865 - was 1835 - 30 years) However, between 1865 and 1865 the residents and the Civil War Soldiers and correspondents, evidently still called the little village "Cacabetytown". The above listed 1893 letter was where I conceived the idea that "Cacabetytown" did not become "Millpoint" until the latter part of the Civil War, or later.

The above named "Dr. Cephus Kacabety" was of the 4th Generation, a son of (u) Joseph (none) and Elizabeth (Turner) Kacabety, and he a son of (u) Elias (none) Kacabety Sr., a son of "Jacob Kacabety Sr. (1701-1788), W. Cov. Gen. No. 1.

You ask the privilege to look over my "Cacabety" data at some time - and that "Bill" Cacabety may have given me much of this material.

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Again I forget - you are welcome to come look over my (now)

"Kecaley Family History Data", at any time it may suit your convenience - however - I wish to state that my "Cacaley Branches" data is limited, as I usually have contacted none of the "Cacaley Branches" - I ran onto "Bill" in a rather peculiar manner. I wrote the Area of Commerce at Millport, not then knowing it was such a small village - my letter was sent to the "Prison Camp" - then relayed to "W.H. Cacaley" of the "Iron Scales Firm" - and he replied - my inquiry concerned the date that "Cacaleytown" became "Millport" - and "Bill" did not know.

I will explain a little more about the "Kecaley F. History" processing of data - It looks like Mr. Will not be "compiling" for 20 or 30 years yet. There are at present 3 Historians, and a General Genealogist - so engaged - I have been working on this "History" for only about 5 1/2 years. The "Genl. Genealogist", about 8 years - at present we have "catalogued" probably over 9,000 ancestors & descendants - I alone - have added over 4,000 in my 5 1/2 years, or almost 1/2 of our total.

I put in about 3 years on the "Kecaley" Bchs. Over, and while living so - ran into a "Kecaley Bch." out in Nebraska, who - in 1865 went into Court in Attumora, Iowa, and legally changed his last name to "KECKLEY" - and at that time he had 8 children, ranging in age from 6 to 22 years - and they all became "KECKLEY'S" without any legal procedure except his oldest son who applied with his father. This instance - threw me into "processing" "Kecaley" Branches - before - I was ready to do so - therefore, for the past 2 1/2 years - I have been "processing" "Kecaley" Branches.

Our "Genl. Genealogist" - Mr. Finley B. Campbell of Stuart City, Ohio - has been "processing" mostly - "Cacaley" Branches, therefore, he has more "Cacaley" detail data than we other 3 "Historians" - though - we all do know about what work each of us have are doing.

I have, I would roughly say - probably 300 "Cacaley" names beginning with Gen. No. 2 of "Valentine and Mary (Dora) Cacaley" and their 6 sons & 4 daughters - names only - no dates - on the 3rd Gen. - I have a few dates - but from the 1st Gen. onward on some of the Bchs. I do have both names and dates. Mr. Campbell, I am sure has much more "Cacaley" data than he has sent here.

Mr. Gene "Historian" searched for some 8 years to finally prove that the O'Brien name here in the "Cacaley" was "Kecaley", but - we still have not located the leading record of the 12th Gen.

and did find in 1909
I will be the
on the name of the

"Kecaley Family History Data", at any time it may suit your convenience - however - I wish to state that my "Cackley & Branches" data is limited, as I personally have contacted none of the "Cackley Branches" - I ran onto "Bill" in a rather peculiar manner. I wrote the "Hesa of Commerce" at Millport, that then knowing it was such a small village - my letter was sent to the "Prison Camp" - then relayed to "W.H. Cackley" of the "Iron Sleds Firm" - and he replied - my inquiry concerned the date that "Cackleytown" became "Millport" - and "Bill" did not know.

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Mr. Genl. Historian, searched for some 8 years to finally prove that the original name here in the "Commerce" was "Kecaley", but - we still are not locate the leading record of the 1st Gen.

and did find in 1803
on "Hesa of Commerce" of Millport

of "Jacob Kechley Sr." - He evidently came here in the late 1770's or early 1780's. Which is too early for the first "Ship loading records" at Phila. Penn., shown in "Rupp's Thirty Thousand Names", which includes the "Immigrants in Penn" from 1777 to 1776, or 50 years.

Possibly you have, or have heard of the "article" entitled - "THE CACKLEYS", published by the "Hon. Charles B. Johnson" of Blacksburg, Virg. In the "Meridian Protestant Times" of Feb. 10-1946. If you do have it - "throw it into the waste-basket", as it is the most "in-informative bunch of 'Info.' ever handed to the many - 'Cackley, Kachley and Kechley Cousins' that we know of. It is practically ALL based on "THEORY". And that "article" was "clipped" by many of our Virg. cousins, and "circulated" all over the various States. The "Historians" now call this "Honorable Chas. B. Johnson" the "HONKEY" C.B.J.

He is a descendant from the (1) John Kachley SR. Bch., thru his daughter (1) Rachel (Ka) JOE - now "JOSE", (2) Hannah (Ka) Johnson; (3) John Ka. Johnson; (4) Wm. James Johnson - then - is (5) Hon. Chas. B. Johnson Gen. No. 6, of Blacksburg, Va. (an Attorney).

In his article "The Cackleys" - he sets up the "French Family" of "SEBASTIAN CACKLEY" AS our ORIGINAL ANCESTOR - this French name is pronounced in French as if spelled "CACKELIE". They sailed from Rotterdam, Holland in the "Pinnas Augustus", with Samuel Marchant as "Master", PALATINES with their families, in all 330 persons, they landed at Dover, England for clearance, and departed at Phila. Penn. as Vessel No. 47. on Sep. 16-1736. At that time - the "Ship lists" only showed the "Male passengers" from 16 yrs. upward. The women were carried as "FREIGHTS", the children as "HORN-FREIGHTS". At that time - three "Ship lists" were made - two for the males 16 & upwards signed, one to give solemn allegiance to the "King of England" - the other to take oath to the "Penn. Colonial British Government" - To give intended to live in that British Colony of Penn. The "third Ship list" was prepared by the Ship "Master", in this case "Samuel Marchant" - He or some sub. officer - made this list in their own hand-writing - Spelling the names as they understood the pronunciation. And on this Master's Ship list these "CACKLEY" names were spelled "CACKELIE" - on the two lists they signed - they plainly spelled their names "CACKLEY" - a very few of these names can be deciphered - I have "photostats" of all three of these "Ship lists". Here were [children in the family. But -

and did find in 1809
In 1810 the name
of these "Ship lists".

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and did find in 1809
Swiss the name
as "Hains" of Penn.

only the father and 2 sons signed, namely, Sebastian, Diedrich (Signed as DIDDY) and Jean. Sebastian Jr. died en route.

The "Passenger" list showed them as follows:-

No. 70 - SEBASTIAN CACKERIE, age 50 yrs; No. 71 - SEBASTIAN CACKERIE, age 22 yrs. (DIED); No. 72 - DIEDERICK CACKERIE, age 20 yrs; and No. 73 - Hans (actually Jean) CACKERIE, age 17 yrs. One other male died en route, namely, HANS LONER.

The "Passenger" list showed 120 males, 167 upwards - but 2 deceased leaves 118 - but only 112 signed the other two lists - so 6 evidently went to other colonies to settle.

A distant relative of "Chas B. Johnson" - "Mrs. W. E. Collins" (three 6) Johna See dr. 6) Rachel (Ga) (Goo) now York, and others = the Gen. No. 6 - Mrs. C. B. Johnson's "Source" for his to use his "Theory" - and she actually believed the "Caguelins" WERE our original ancestors. I will relate more of "Mrs. W. E. Collins" later on.

I could not see these "Caguelins" as our original ancestors for three reasons - FIRST - because I felt sure in my NOT FRENCH; SECOND - none of the names of "SEBASTIAN, DIEDERICK OR JEAN" ever appeared in the "Jacob Keady Sr. Frank", or any of his children, or grand children Bchs., THIRLY - his name was "Jacob Sr." Spelled his name "Keady", as did his 5 children.

Therefore, when I had a little spare time in 1953, I began a search in Penn. to either PROVE or DISPROVE these "Caguelins" as our original ancestors. In about 4 months, by correspondence, I PROVED (thru the Caguelin Family Gen. Genealogist Mr. Henry S. Cocker, Hillsbury, Penn.) that the Caguelins were not even a "LINEAGE" by any of Sebastian SRs. 7 children running into either a "Kc-Ka or Cocker" Family. If I could have contacted this "Henry S. Cocker" at first - 10 days ago, I would have needed to PROVE them not even a "Lineage".

The "British Anglicising Law" of 1718 in the "County of Penn.". Finally caught up with the Caguelin Family in its third generation in Penn., arriving about 1760, where they became - "COCKLEY - COCKLEY & COCKLEY (s)".

Now, about "Mrs. W. E. Collins" - She was not what I would call a "Historian" - but - she was searching for an ancestor who was a "Rev. War Soldier" - So - she could become a "D.D.R.". She traced down - "Kachley - Whitman - Dickey - Grant - Garms (20th) and Collins". She knew that W. John Kachley Sr. 1185 a "Rev. War Soldier" - BUT she could not

only the father and 2 sons signed, namely, Sebastian, Diedrich (Signed as DIDDY) and Jean. Sebastian Jr. died en route.

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find his record in either Frederick or Hampshire Counties - and
 as she believed the Caguelins were our Original Ancestors - and
 that in the 1700's boundary lines were quite indifinate - she went
 up into Leicester & Cumberland Co. Penn., and took a "John
Cockley" (actually Jean Caguelin) who was shown as a "Private
 in Cumberland Co. Pa. Militia, 3rd Battalion in 1781," and she
 added - "and Leicester Co. Penn.". He - probably never fired a gun
 at any body in the Rev. War - as the peace treaty was signed in 1781.

The "cagined" her Lineage this way:- Emma Barnes Collins,
 dtr. of Sam M. Tribby Collins, dtr. of Frances Yost Tribby, dtr. of
Rachel Cagley (actually Kachley - D.E.K.) Yost, dtr. of John Cagley,
 and the said John Kachley a son of Jacob Kachley (actually Kecaley
 D.E.K.). To support this "John Cockley" under "Ancestors Services"

she brought in: An Archivist, Penn. State Library; French Huguenots;
Sebastien Caguelin, his son Sebastien (died & never reached Penn - D.E.K.),
Diedrich and Jean; Anne May Gayley - a member Penn. Huguenot Soc.
 from "Jean"; Joha Cagley owner of Grist Mills near Wheatcroft Va;
 who was one of four brothers who operated Mills near Capon Springs Va;
 about 1812 (was 1817 D.E.K.) John Kachley (Kecaley - Cockley - Cackley)
 came to Germany, Pa. Ohio from near Wheatcroft, Va. The name is also
 spelled "GOGLEY - KEELEY - KUECHELE - KOCHLEIN & GOCKLEY". =

This was sure a "Master piece of deceit" - but she
 became a "B.A.R."

After - 3 yrs. searching - I secured her "old Steel Press Box"
 full of letters, papers, notes, etc - which she accumulated in
 about 35 years searching - it was at my home for about 2 1/2
 years - (just picked up - 2 mos. ago). A copy of the 1893 letter (one of
 them) by Dr. Cephus Kachley - was found in that "Old Steel Box".
 I also copied in long hand, two copies each of over 50 letters,
 which I felt had "possibilities". The two "Dr. Cephus Ka." letters
 were worth more than all the others located.

He was a descendant of (a) Elias Ka. Sr., more commonly known
 as "K.H.H.", through his son (b) Joseph & Elizabeth (Turner) Ka.,
 then (c) Dr. Cephus Kachley (Gen. No. 4). Through these two letters
 of Dr. Cephus Ka., in the past 2 years we have contacted descendants
 of almost all of (a) Elias Ka. Sr. (R. Children), whereas, before that
 we had only contacted about 5 of them.

Probably I better give you the data, as we now have it
 for Generation No. 1 of "Jacob Kecaley Sr.", who migrated
 from Leicester Co. Penn. in 1741 to the "Valley of Virginia" (from the
 (now)

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 as she believed the Caguelins were our original ancestors - and
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Sebastian Caguelin, his son Sebastian (lived & now resided Penn - D.E.K.),
Dietrich and Jean; Anne May Gayley - a member Penn. Huguenot Soc.
 from "Jean"; John Cagley owner of Grist Mills near Winchester Va;
 who was one of four brothers who operated mills near Capon Springs Va;
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 had only contacted about 5 of them).

Probably I better give you the data, as we now have it
 for Generation No. 1 of "Jacob Kecaley Sr." who migrated
 from Leicester Co. Penn. in 1741 to the "Valley of Virginia" (now)

Roanoke Valley) and settled in what is now Frederick County.
 Here he secured approx. 2,000 acres of land and operated a
 "Plantation" for about 47 years, or until his death in 1788.
 Have you ever learned where this plantation was located?

= GEN. NO. 1 = KECKLEY FAMILY HISTORY =

Jacob (now) KECKLEY SR. B- ¹⁷⁰¹ ¹⁷⁰⁰ IN STANHEIM, NORTHEMBERG, GERMANY.
 D- FEB 15th 1788 IN FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRG.
 Bred. Feb. 18-1788 IN OLD FURNACE CEMETERY, NEAR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
 AND CEMETERY, LOCATED ABOUT 1/2 MILE WEST OF MOUNT WILLIAMS, ON STATE
 ROUTE NO. 600.
 MARR. - ABOUT 1740 IN LANCASTER CO. PENN., NE BELLEVILLE - To -
ANCE B- -1717; D- -1805 IN FREDERICK CO., VIRG.
 Bred. IN ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY.

= CHILDREN =

(1) John (now) KECKLEY SR. B- 7-30-1744, LANCASTER CO. PENN. D- 4-23-1873, GUERNSEY CO.,
 OHIO - NOW IN NOBLE CO., 2 1/2 MILES S.E. OF PLEASANT CITY, GUERNSEY CO., OHIO.
 He Had 3 Sons & 5 Dtrs. - Most of them lived in GUERNSEY CO., OHIO.
 He Was A REAR SOLDIER. Bred. IN C. B. RICHMOND CEMETERY S.E. OF PLEASANT CITY, OHIO.

(2) Jacob (now) KECKLEY JR. No Birth or Death Data. MARR. MARGARET FRYE - Had 7 Sons & 3 Dtrs.
 INHERITED THE HOME PLANTATION IN 1788, DIED INTENTATE ONLY
 A FEW YEARS LATER. ESTATE EVIDENTLY HEIR ESTATE BY THE MARRIAGE,
 AS NO RECORDS CAN BE FOUND.

(3) Valentine (now) KECKLEY SR. No Birth or Death Data - MARR. "MARY (now) FRYE" OF EAGER SPRINGS, VA.,
 EVIDENTLY A DTR. OF THE FAMILY FRYE'S "ABRAHAM & ABRAHAM FRYE" OF
 FREDERICK CO. VIRG., THE GR. DTR. OF BENJAMIN FRYE (DIED IN FRYE CO. IN 1753).
 This FRYE Family Came From MONTGOMERY CO. PENN. IN ABOUT 1738 AND SETTLED
 ON "CEDAR CREEK". IN ABOUT 1758 "ALEXANDER CO. SR." MIGRATED TO
 WHAT IS NOW POCATONTO CO. WYOM., AT THAT TIME WAS GREENBRIER CO.,
 HE SETTLED AT WHAT IS NOW "MILLPOINTE, WYOM.", WHICH HE ESTABLISHED
 AS "KECKLEY TOWN". HERE HE BUILT A MODERN MILL FOR THAT TIME;
 PRODUCED A "HAMMER"; STARTED A "TIN-HAMMER" AND A "GENERAL STORE".
 HE ALSO PROMOTED & ENCOURAGED OTHER USEFUL INDUSTRIES IN THAT
 SECTION. HE ACQUIRED A WOODLAND PASTURE. HE HAD 6 Sons & 11 Dtrs.

(4) Henry (now) KECKLEY SR. No Birth Data; D- ABOUT 1816 IN FREDERICK CO. VIRG. HE HERE "LIVED
 HIS ENTIRE LIFE. MARR. "CATHERINE", EVIDENTLY THE
 FREDERICK CO. VA. THEY HAD 5 Sons & 11 Dtrs., ONE SON "BENJAMIN"
 DIED IN AN EARLY AGE. THEIR FIRST 5 BORN. REMAINED IN VIRG.,
 AND (I THINK) IN THE AREA. I THINK AT A FAMILY YOUNGSTER. THE
 OTHER CHILDREN WENT TO GUERNSEY CO. OHIO TO RIVER, & (I THINK) 8
 "Sons" TO THE TOWN OF KNOX CO. IND. (NEAR INDIANAPOLIS).

Roanoke Valley) and settled in what is now Frederick County.
 Here he secured approx. 2,000 acres of land and operated a
 "Plantation" for about 47 years, or until his death in 1788.
 Have you ever learned where this plantation was located?

GEN. NO. 1 - KECKLEY FAMILY HISTORY =

Jacob (none) KECKLEY SR. B- ¹⁷⁰¹ ¹⁷⁰⁰ IN STAMHEIM, NORTHEMBERG, GERMANY.
 D- FEB 17th 1788 IN FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRG.
 BRO. FEB. 18-1788 IN OLD FURNACE CEMETERY, NEAR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
 AND CEMETERY, LOCATED ABOUT 3 MI. WEST OF MOUNT WILLIAMS, ON STATE
 ROUTE NO. 600.
 MARR. - ABOUT 1740 IN LANCASTER CO. PENN., NE BELIEVE - To -
 Alice B- -1717; D- -1805 IN FREDERICK CO., VIRG.
 BRO. IN ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY.

= CHILDREN =

(1) John (none) KECKLEY SR. B- 7-30-1744, LANCASTER CO. PENN. D- 4-23-1873, GUERNSEY CO.,
 OHIO - NOT IN NOBLE CO., 2 1/2 MILES S.E. OF PLEASANT CITY, GUERNSEY CO., OHIO.
 HE HAD 3 SONS & 5 DTRS. - MOST OF THEM LIVED IN GUERNSEY CO., OHIO.
 HE WAS A REVEREND SOLDIER. BORN IN C. 3. RICHMOND COUNTY, S.E. OF PLEASANT CITY, OHIO.
 MARR. - RUTH WEISBERG.

(2) Jacob (none) KECKLEY SR. NO BIRTH OR DEATH DATA. MARR. MARGARET FICKELST - Had 2 SONS & 3 DTRS.
 INHERITED THE HOME PLANTATION IN 1788, DIED INTIMATE ONLY
 A FEW YEARS LATER. ESTATE EVIDENTLY HELD ENTIRE BY THIS MARGARET,
 AS NO RECORDS CAN BE FOUND.

(3) Valentine (none) KECKLEY SR. NO BIRTH OR DEATH DATA - MARR. "MARY (none) FRYE" OF CAPOON SPRINGS, VA.,
 EVIDENTLY A DIR. OF THE EARLY PIONEERS "ABRAHAM & AGNES FRYE" OF
 FREDERICK CO. VIRG., AND GR. DIR. OF BENJAMIN FRYE (DIED IN FRYE CO. IN 1753).
 THIS FRYE FAMILY CAME FROM MONTGOMERY CO. PENN. IN ABOUT 1738 AND SETTLED
 ON "CEDAR CREEK". IN ABOUT 1788 "VALENTINE KECKLEY", MIGRATED TO
 WHAT IS NOW ROCKHURST CO. W. VA., AT THAT TIME WAS GREENBRIER CO.,
 HE SETTLED AT WHAT IS NOW "MILLPOINTE, W. VA.", WHICH HE ESTABLISHED
 AS "KECKLEY TOWN". HERE HE BUILT A MODERN MILL FOR THAT TIME;
 PRODUCED A "TANNERY"; STARTED A "NAIL-HAMMER" AND A "GENERAL STORE".
 HE ALSO PROMOTED & ENCOURAGED OTHER USEFUL INDUSTRIES IN THAT
 SECTION. AND ACQUIRED A VERY HANDSOME ESTATE. HAD 6 SONS & 11 DTRS.

(4) Henry (none) KECKLEY SR. NO BIRTH DATA; D- ABOUT 1816 IN FREDERICK CO. VIRG. HE HERE LIVED
 HIS ENTIRE LIFE. MARR. "CATHERINE", EVIDENTLY IN
 FREDERICK CO. VA. THEY HAD 5 SONS & 11 DTRS., ONE SON "BENJAMIN"
 DIED AT AN EARLY AGE. THEIR FIRST SON, REMAINED IN VIRG.,
 AND (DIED) IN THE NAME. & DIED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE. THE
 OTHER CHILDREN WENT TO GUERNSEY CO. OHIO TO RESIDE, & (2) JACOB &
 SAMUEL WENT TO THE TOWN OF KNOX CO. IND. (NEAR INDIANAPOLIS).

(1) Benjamin (1700) Keckley - { THESE TWO DRS. WE STILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT - SO, DO NOT
KNOW HOW THEY SPOKE THEIR LAST NAMES, OR WHEN THEY MARRIED.
EVIDENTLY DIED IN DEC. 1780, AS HIS ESTATE WAS APPRAISED ON
JAN. 8, 1781, VALUATION OF 5454 POUNDS, (ABOUT \$30,000 - THEN - D.E.K.),
THE SALE HELD ON JAN. 16 - 1781, ESTATE SETTLED ON OCT. 5 - 1781. ONLY HEIR,
WIFE "CATHERINE", WHO BECAME "MRS. HENRY RICHARDS" BEFORE THE
ESTATE WAS SETTLED. HE ONE OF THE "APPENDICES". THE ABOVE DATA
SHING CLEARLY WHY "BENJAMIN" WAS NOT MENTIONED IN HIS FATHER'S
WILL - MADE ON AUG. 1ST - 1781. HE HAD DIED ABOUT 8 MONTHS PRIOR,
AFTER LEAVING NO HEIRS - EXCEPT - HIS WIFE CATHERINE. SRS. WILL
PROBATED ON OCT. 6 - 1781, IN BOOK 5 PP 377, WINCHESTER, VIRG.
EXECUTORS WERE HIS DEAR WIFE (NOT NAMED) & SON "ELIAS". THE
SETTLEMENT OF HIS ESTATE WAS DELAYED, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE "MRS. ANNE
KECKLEY" (HIS WIFE) DID NOT "OBSERVE".

HARRY A. RICHARDS SPOUSE
IS -
"BENJAMIN CAOKLEY" -
A MEMBER OF "JARRISON
KING'S CO. OF VIRG RIFLES"
MAY (16). HE WAS MARRIED
ON DEC 30 - 1775 AT THE PARISH
FOR BRIDGE CREEK, VA.
"MRS. ANNE" WAS THE "FAMILY" BORN - LINE
NAME - "CAOKLEY" FROM WINCHESTER,
VA. TO BRIDGE CREEK, VA. IN 1780, OR
IN 1781, OF THE PHILIPPS FIRM DATE.
(JULY 14 TO AUG 1781)

This will give you a good general idea of Gen No. 1 - and the THREE
different spellings of the ORIGINAL FAMILY NAME, which the "historians" are
SURE was not intentional - but due to "CIRCUMSTANCES". Caused by the
"German Boys" pronunciation of their last name. A German always
pronounces an "k" as if it was a long or broad "A" in English, therefore,
they pronounce their names "KACKLEY". If a German wrote it down they
would spell it "KACKLEY", but others would spell it either "Kackley" or
"Cackley" - both pronounced the same. Therefore - as these German Boys
eventually became "tongible property", the documents were frequently
made out WRONG, and when they disposed of that property they were
compelled to use the wrong spelled names - which furnished the wrong
spelled names. In the middle 1700's it was more important to "tell the
tale" to make a living - than it was - to worry about the "spelling of your
name" - therefore - 2 sons (W. John & Elias) became "Kackley", 1 son (B. Valentine)
became "Cackley", and 2 sons remained "Keckley" (B. John & B. Benjamin),
although "Benjamin" was frequently called a "Cackley".

Now, you are probably wondering HOW I got into this
"Picture" - Well, I am, so to speak - a "lost Keckley, who can't
find his roots". After 2 1/2 years searching, I am unable to trace my
ancestors farther back than my 1st. Grandfather, namely, "John Keckley"
(1803-72) who was born "Somerset" in Virginia - his parents name still
unknown to me at this time. He migrated to Boone Co. Penn., where on
11-11-1803 he married "Charlotte Beckenbaugh" (1805-1892) - In 1804 they migrated
to "Somerset" to near Littleton, Kentucky Co. Ohio, where he bought 111 acres of
land - built a log cabin and began clearing the land & raising his
family of John & William - B. John Keckley (1807-1881) was my 1st. Grandfather.

(1) KACKLEY & (2) KECKLEY - { THESE TWO DTS. WE STILL KNOW NOTHING ABOUT - SO, DO NOT KNOW HOW THEY SPOOLED THEIR LAST NAMES, OR WHEN THEY MARRIED. EVIDENTLY DIED IN DEC. 1780, AS HIS ESTATE WAS APPRAISED ON JAN. 8, 1781, VALUATION OF 5454 POUNDS, (ABOUT \$30,000⁰⁰ THEN - D.E.K.), THE SALE HELD ON JAN. 16 - 1781, ESTATE SETTLED ON OCT. 5 - 1781. ONLY HEIR, WIFE "CATHERINE", WHO BECAME "MRS. HENRY RICHARDS" BEFORE THE ESTATE WAS SETTLED. HE ONE OF THE "APPRAISORS". THE ABOVE DATA SHOWS CLEARLY WHY "BENJAMIN" WAS NOT MENTIONED IN HIS FATHER'S WILL - MADE ON AUG. 1ST - 1781. HE HAD DIED ABOUT 8 MONTHS PRIOR, AT A LATER NO HEIRS - EXCEPT - HIS WIFE CATHERINE. SRS. WILL PROBATED ON OCT. 6 - 1781, IN BOOK 5 PP 77, WINCHESTER, VIRG. EXECUTORS WERE HIS DEAR WIFE (NOT NAMED) & SON "ELIAS". THE SETTLEMENT OF HIS ESTATE WAS DELAYED, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE "MRS. ALICE KECKLEY" (HIS WIFE) DID NOT "COOPERATE".

HARRY A. RICHARDS, SCHOLAR
IS -
"BENJAMIN CACKLEY" -
A MEMBER OF "JARRISON
MORGAN CO. OF VIRG. RIFLES"
MEN (16). HE WAS MARRIED
ON DEC. 30 - 1775 AT THE "BRIDGE"
FOR BRIDGE "BRIDGE".
"HARRY" WAS THE "FAMILY BORN-LINE"
NAME - ORIGINALLY FROM "KACKLEY",
I.E. TO "KACKLEY" IN 1780, OR
SOMEWHERE OF "JARRISON CO. D.C."
(JAN. 1781)

This will give you a good general idea of Gen No. 1 - and the THREE different spellings of the ORIGINAL FAMILY NAME, which the "historians" are SURE was not intentional - but due to "CIRCUMSTANCES". Caused by their "German Boys" pronunciation of their last name. A German always pronounces an "E" as if it was a long or short "A" in English, therefore, they pronounce their names "KACKLEY". If a German wrote it down they would spell it "KACKLEY", but others would spell it either "Kackley" or "Cackley" - both pronounced the same. Therefore - as these German Boys eventually became "tangible property", the documents were frequently made out WRONG, and when they disposed of that property they were compelled to use their wrong spelled names - which furnished their wrong spelled names. In the middle 1700's it was more important to "tell the soil" to make a living - then it was - to worry about the "Spelling of your name" - therefore - 2 sons (W. John & W. Elias) became "Kackley", 1 son (B. Valentine) became "Cackley", and 2 sons remained "Kackley" (B. John & B. Benjamin), although "Benjamin" was frequently called a "Cackley".

Now, you are probably wondering HOW I got into this "Picture" - Well, I am, so to speak - a "lost Kackley, who can't find his roots". After 5 years searching, I am unable to trace my ancestors further back than my 3rd great father, "John Kackley" (1813-72) who was born "Somerset" in Virginia - his parents name still unknown to me at this time. He migrated to Boone Co. Tenn., where on 1813-1814 he built "Charlotte Jackson house" (1813-1814) - I think they migrated in "hundreds" to New Hill, Kentucky Co. Ohio, where he bought 100 acres of land - built a log cabin and began clearing the land & raising his family of 10 children in O'Fallon (1813-1814) - I think this was his father's name.

(1837-1900) In 1856, Picking Co. Ohio, he mar. "Amey (name) Hester" (1839-1900)
that fell they migrated via "Carroll Mason", with a letter to Wm.
Calumna He & wife to near Bloomington, McKean Co. Ill., where
they settled on a farm - they had 7 sons & 2 dts - (1) John Hester
He my father - (1860-1919) mar. 1884 - "Cynthia Fredericka White" (beat
that name - if you can) in McKean Co. Ill. (1866 - still living here in 1900,
age - past 71 years) - they had 1 son & 1 dt - (1) David Knox Hester, the
writer - b. 1-18-1886, mar. 6-16-1917 Winchester, Tenn., "Amey Helen Sims"
b. 8-13-1890 Jasper Co. Ill. - both living - no children. The wife a
"Severe Victim" - blood clots Nov. 1949 - left side affected - still in
a "wheel-chair", and will be the balance of her days there.

"Public Records" in the Virginias are scarce articles - some due to
the ravages of three wars - "Revolution, Civil, and Reconstruction". First marriage records
in Frederick Co. Va. in 1784 - too late to "catch" any of the 7 children
of Gen. No. 1 of Jacob Co. S.R. Death 1784 or 86 yrs. later - Births
1896 or 114 yrs. later than marriage.

I am wondering if you have heard about the two books on W. Va.
Land Grants, encumbrances etc. that has recently been published by the
State Auditor "Edgar B. Sims". One is "Making of a State" 9x12 printed
in 12 pt type, bound in blue v. g. Buckram - 713 pages - covering items
from 1733 to 1955. Copies of Land Grants to Gen. Washington, a few of his officers
and soldiers, and other individuals by the "Crown of England" and the
Commonwealth of Virginia, and parts thereof - Price \$5.00 per copy.

The other book is the "Sims index to Land Grants in W. Virginia",
of 864 pages of 50,000 names of persons to whom grants were made
in the territory now W. Va., some of which date back to 1746. Price
\$2.00 per copy.

I learned of the above books when I bought a modern
detail map of "Hampshire & Pocahontas Co's, W. Va." from the "Dept. of
Highways" at Charleston, W. Va. - and on March 7th received a nice
letter from State Auditor "Edgar B. Sims". In my letter I asked
if any "Ke-Kay or Cackley's" lived in Charleston, and that I was
interested in some way of finding out about Land Grants and encumbrances
lists of these persons in Hampshire Co. from about 1760 onward - as
it seems that Quintus Public Records were all destroyed during the
Civil War. Mr. Sims advised that he had made a brief search of the
encumbrance records and Grants of Hampshire Co. (their earliest records is 1784)
He did not find any Grants in these names - but did find in 1801
the name of "Abraham Kerkley", 107 acres. In 1806 the name is listed
as "Abraham Kerkley" 127 acres on "Branch of Mill Branch". No other

in former detail data for the 3rd of

(1837-1900) in 1856, Picking Co. Ohio, he said. "Amy (name) Hansen" (1839-1900) that fell they migrated via "Carroll wagon", with a healer (6) 7000. Salisbury Co. & wife to near Bloomington, McLean Co. Ill., where they settled on a farm - they had 7 sons & 2 daughters - (1) John Hansen the my father - (1860-1917) mar. 1884 - "CYNTHIA FREDERICK WHITE" (beat that name - if you can) in McLean Co. Ill. (1866 - Still living but in decline, age - past 71 years) - they had 1 son & 1 daughter - (1) David Karl Keckley, the writer - b. 1-18-1886, mar. 6-16-1917 Winchester, Tenn., "Amy Helen Sims" b. 8-13-1890 Jasper Co. Ill. - both living - no children. The wife a "Severe disturbance" - blind clerk Nov. 1949 - left side affected - Still in a "wheel-chair", and will be the balance of her days there.

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The other book is the "Sims index to Land Grants in W. Virginia", of 864 pages of 50,000 names of persons to whom grants were made in the territory now W. Va., some of which date back to 1746. Price \$20.00 per copy.

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in summary detail data for the 7/8/50

on the "Ancestral Records" of Hampshire County earlier than 1809

do we find the names you list.

In searching our books we find that Valentine Keeling obtained

a Grant in Goshen County, Va. in 1797 on Keep's Creek. This area was not

included in the 1871 (see exhibit) records a number of "Carringtons" viz:

Valentine, William, Keen, Benjamin & Joseph. (There were all sons of Valentine

Keen, who was granted from Goshen, Reddick & Rutherford Co's

in 1821, but the area in which these persons appear to have owned land

would be the part from Goshen Co. But no James from Augusta Co. in

1790. We do not find any of the names you mentioned in our Goshen

County Records. A copy of the "Valentine Keeling" land Grant can

be made for you at a price of \$1.50. Signal - Egan & Sons - 515 West

St. The above info. about the land referred to "Abraham Ke"

was exactly what I was seeking - and that info. each was NOTING

I had undertaken (from the 1893 list of Dr. E. R. Keen (Joseph) at

near Goshen Bridge, Va. (see map) - this date was 6-15-1849. The name

reason for my present interest in "Abraham Ke's family" is - that

the name appears on "John Keeling (1807-72)" of Keeling Co., Ohio

map as a son of John (1) "Abraham Keeling", the owner of "King Ke. 50"

the map detail & map of "Hampshire Co.", I locate the stream -

"Stream of Mill Creek" just to the N.E. of Capon Bridge, and in the

map appears of "Jenkins Ridge" - a continuation of the "Big or

great north mountain range."

of dollars - but if you try to make too many "Personal Cells" you may, like many former historians, become a "Public Clergy". (as) "Public Genealogists" at from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per hour also soon become quite expensive.

The Campbell's Hist. "Mr. William H. Kacaley" of Byramville, N.Y. donated \$8.00 in one, which produced the following item taken from "Rev. Christian Streit's" DIARY: "FEB. 18-1788 - BURIED AT OLD FURNACE, JACOB KECKLEY, AGED 86 YEARS, FROM STAMHEIM, NORTHEM OBER. TEXT REV. 14:13".

We have known of this "Rev. C. Streit" the Lutheran Church Minister at Minster from July 19-1785 to 1814 - as his name appears on many of the Kacaley & Kacaley Boys & Girls Marriage Records of that Era; and we had utmost confidence in him and his records, therefore, we feel the above "Bury Entry" is as authentic as any "Public Record". All of Jacob Keckley's Sons, except Benjamin - and his wife "Alex" WERE living when he was buried on Feb. 18-1788 - therefore, he secured the above info. for his sermon and "Diary" - direct from the family, so, it MUST BE AUTHENTIC.

The admission to me settled History for "Jacob Keckley", namely, his approx. Birthyear, death date, Nationality - and above all that his original home here in the "Colonies" WAS "KECKLEY", which I have contended for the past 5 years, although in his will the "man" spelled it "Kacaley" - which "Jacob" signed with "his mark". If he could not sign his own name - then - he evidently could not read either, so, he could not determine that his name was INCORRECTLY SPOelled.

In re - your Original Ancestor's name - I imagine that you may have discovered by now that it was "McNIEN" - Former - and pronounced as "Mc NEEN or Mc NEIN". And the spelling became changed by the pronunciation, the same as the "Kecally name".

In further reference to the "Rev. Streit Diary Entry" - I feel that this "Diary" would disclose many items that the Liederich & Hampshire County Public Records did not yet show - and that it would be foolish to pay this "Proff. Genealogist" \$8.00 every time in suspicion an "item" might be found in it - so, why not try to locate that "Diary".

So, write the present Minister of the Minster Lutheran Church, and learned that the Church Trustees had published in 1954 a book entitled "This History", which included the "Rev. Streit Diary" (single), obtainable at \$4.00 per copy. So, I sent check and had a copy within a week. The "Diary" covered 43 pages - but - began

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So, I wrote the present Minister of the Hiram Lutheran Church, and learned that the Church Trustees had published in 1954 a book entitled "The Hiram", which included the "Rev. Streit Diary" (copied), obtainable at \$4.00 per copy. So, I sent check and had 6 copies within a week. The "Diary" covered 43 pages - but - began

on July 4-1783, and ended abruptly on Nov. 28-1786 - not even completing the year 1788 - a coverage of about $3\frac{1}{3}$ years ONLY. Very disappointing, his anticipated "Diaries" covering possibly 40 or 50 years. Only two "Kecney" items appeared, namely, the burial of Jacob 50, and the election on Dec. 15-1787 of "Ellis Beckley" as a Reformed Deacon of the "Old Furnace Church". Two other "Kecley" names appeared in the 396 page Book, namely, "Harry B." as Elder 1782-25 and Financial Supy. 1915 - at Winchester, and "Frank" as a confirmed member in the Dec 31-1953 listing.

And during the $3\frac{1}{3}$ years of the "Diary" Rev. Street gave 386 Sermons, 109 baptisms, 163 Confirmations, had 157 Marriage Ceremonies & 43 Funerals. But not a single marriage of a "Kecley or a Kackley". He also preached at many other Lutheran Churches in that Section - also 3 times at Phila, Penn., one at Lancaster, Penn., Hagerstown, Md. & Sunbury. These trips were all made on "hurdles" - took one week to ride to Phila., or two weeks per sermon. He came to Lancaster, Penn. "Rev. C. Street" died in Winchester on 3-10-1814. Served there 1785-1794 & 1804-1812 = 18 years, and at Middletown Nov. Headlock 1795-1803 as 9 years - a total of 27 years in "The Valley of Virginia". He died at age of 67 years 9 mos. & 3 days. If you are a "Kecney" - the book "This Heritage" would be very interesting to you, as it covers the founding of the Lutheran Churches in Virginia.

If you are interested in W. Virg., write "Edgar B. Sims" State Auditor W. Virg., Charleston, W. Va., for a copy of his Circular on his "Books" - and copies of the "Map of present W. Va. as of 1735 - and as of 1780", which will give you an excellent idea of the Section you were born in, and for \$25 you may obtain a very detail Map of Pocahontas Co. W. Va., which even shows all farm residences.

Since Auditor Sims last name is the same as my wife's "Mildred" - I am "playing a few cards" with her - for some additional info in "Hampshire County", because, the records at Ronney now date back to only 1865 - prior ones destroyed during "Civil War" - he seems very accommodating - so to further the sale of his "Books" - I may get some "extra fees".

I have not yet asked "Bill" to pinpoint the two "Mills" built by Valentine Cacley, Sr. - are they on the Small Stream that flows thru Millport and empties into the "Greenbrier River" about 1 1/2 miles away, or on the Greenbrier? I have assumed that neither are now being operated. The detail Co. Map published by the State shows "Saw Mills", but no "Grain Mills" - a "Seasonal Industry" is shown at "Millport", near a Business Building, a Farm House, and one home lower - and nearby 2 farm homes and one home lower. "Bill" tells me the population is 15 persons. (over)

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Reason - on a list of 10 children - there are a few that
"lack" giving their Birth data - and - when other Branch No. 7
give their data - you are forced to seek "Public Records" -
and if not convenient to "View", you must buy them, which soon
runs into many dollars extra expense.

To save expenses, I plan to soon go to Charleston, Ill., and
have them "dig out" the Birth & Death record books for me to
peruse, beginning with No. 1 - and on the Marriage Books - from about
1860 onward. This will involve probably two or three days time - but
will save about \$100.00 in "fees" for Certified Records. Before the
trip - I plan to go to Springfield, and search the "1865 State Census"
micro-film - records (with a good magnifying glass), to help determine
if the parents were then still living - if not - then I will know
they died sometime between Aug. 4 - 1860 (Census taking date), and
the date the State Census taken in 1865 - I must search in both
Counties of "Coles & Cumberland" to determine this. Then somehow
I must learn their approx. death dates, and try to find their
burial place in some rural cemetery - a tough job.

Most "Historians" take what is sent them, and leave the "Stubborn"
branch go - but that makes a very poor "History" - So, I make every
effort possible to complete every Branch 100% - IF they do not take
too much money to complete.

By the way - can you furnish me the name and address of any of
the descendants of - (6) Joseph & Susan (McClure) Co. and (7) Benjamin &
Fanny (McKeown) Cackley who migrated to Jackson Co. Ohio? - We
have been unable to locate any of these Branches.

I also note you quote Thomas Hill's wife as Ann Cackley -
we have her recorded as "Andie". Are we wrong?

I also have the name vada of "Willa Belle Cackley", 1315 East
6200. Denver, Kans. City, Mo. - have never written her - where does she
fit in the Cackley line?

The answers to the above 3 questions, I would like to "relay"
to Mr. Stanley B. Campbell, who is processing the "Cackley Branches".

Well, I must confess that this letter has run into a "book",
whereas, I only intended to write 2 or 3 pages - so - I must beg
your pardon. Probably much of this "Cackley & Cackley" data
will not interest you too much - but while I was writing, I thought
you would be interested in the first generation, so as to build up to
your ancestor, "O. Valentine (none) Cackley, Esq."

Mr. Campbell is a former "Justice of the Peace", and still
(over)

Research - on a Set of 10 Children - there are a few that
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have been unable to locate any of these Branches.

I also note you quote Thomas Hill's wife as Ann Cackley -
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I also have the name vada of "Willa Belle Cackley", 1315 East
6200. Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. - have never written her - where does she
"fit in the Cackley Bk.?"

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to "Mr. Stanley B. Campbell", who is processing the "Cackley Branches".

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will not interest you too much - but while I was writing, I thought
you would be interested in the first generation, so as to build up to
your ancestor, "O. Valentine (name) Cackley ES."

Mr. Campbell is a former "Judge of the Peace", and still
(over)

does considerable "Holmes and Ohio State Income Tax work" at his home - and now is his busy season, so, if you write him it might be a little time before you hear from him - so - do not despair. And, in the meantime - if you would like to look over my data - at any time will be suitable - as I put in about 10 hours daily on this F. History work - letters come in almost daily from the hundreds of contacts I am making - but - you better give me a few days advance notice, as soon in a great while we are away from home. Our over night accommodations are usually not too good, as we rent out all spare rooms to male roomers, but, of course, now and then we do have a "vacancy", where we can accommodate you - for you and bring the "Miss", as she and the wife can "camp" while you & I do the History work.

So, with this, I will bring this lengthy letter to a close, write when it may be convenient - and if you have any questions - fire them to me - and I will do my best to answer them.

Very truly yours,

H. Earl Lockley,
938 - West Wood St.,
Decatur, Illinois

(Letter No. 1632)

(Reading time 1 hr)

P.S. -

When you reply - the "questions" are marked * in left margin, so as to save rereading the whole letter.

WEL

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Very truly yours,

N. Earl Heckley,
938 - West Wood St.,
Decatur, Illinois

(Letter No. 1632.)

(Reading time 1 hr.)

P.S. -

When you reply - the "questions" are marked * in left margin, so as to save rereading the whole letter.

NEH

Decatur, Illinois
March 24, 1957

Dr. John O. McNeel
1127 Pine Street
St. Louis 1, Missouri

Dear Dr. McNeel:

Your letter of the 22nd inst. arrived this a. m., in re: the postoffice of Millpoint, W. Va., originally Cackleytown, and same inquiry concerning the Cackley Family.

You seem to have settled at least the time that Millpoint, Virg., (now W. Va.) became a U. S. Post Office, however, the name of the town could have been changed earlier than the date the P. O. was established.

I have a copy of a letter ~~written~~ written on Feb. 6, 1893 by Dr. Cephus Kackley Maysville, Ky., to Wm. H. Cackley, of Ronceverte, W. Va., (this Wm. H. C. the son (8) Valentine Cackley, Jr., not the Wm. H. Ca of near Millpoint) in which he was seeking info. about the Virg. Cackleys - and his letter contained the following paragraph - "~~Examine the list of battle skirmishes in Va.~~ In a list of battle skirmishes in Va. I find the name Cackleytown. I could not find such a postoffice. Where is it? I think Wm. Cackley spoke of the place when at father's."

Of course this has reference to Civil War skirmishes and this would be thirty years after the date the P. O. Dept. Records show that the town was Millpoint. (1865 less 1835=30 years). However between 1862 and 1865 the residents and the Civil War soldiers and correspondents evidently still called the little village Cackleytown. The above listed 1893 letter was where I conceived the idea that Cackleytown did not become Millpoint until the latter part of the Civil War, or later. The above named Dr. Cephus Kackley was of the 4th generation, a son of (4) Joseph (none) and Elizabeth (Turner) Ka., and he a son of (4) Elias (none) Kackley, Sr., a son of Jacob Keckley, Sr. (1701-1788), or Gen. No. 1.

You ask the privilege to look over my Cackley data at some time and that Bill Cackley may have given me much of this material. Bill had sent no data, until a letter came on Mch. 22nd, in which he sent info. for his branch, his parents, grandparents, and grat grd. parents (Gen. No. 3) of Levi (none), Sr., and Nancy (none) Bradshaw Cackley. He sent no data, not even names for his grandfather (5 Wm. James Ca.), 3 brothers and two sisters.

I note that you are compiling a History of the McNeel Family, therefore, I am wondering how far back you may know about the original Keckley ancestors, who came to the colonies and if you know about the three spellings of the original family name of - Keckley -- namely - Keckley, Kackley & Cackley.

Before I forget it - you are welcome to come look over my Keckley Family History data, at any time it may suit your convenience - however - I wish to state that my "Cackley Branches" data IS LIMITED, as I personally have contacted none of the "Cackley Branches" - I ran onto Bill in a rather peculiar manner. I wrote the Assoc. of Commerce at Millpoint not then knowing it was such a small village - my letter was sent to the Prison Camp - then relayed to Wm. H. Cackley of the Twin Cakes Farm - and he replied - my inquiry concerned the date that Cackleytown became Millpoint - and Bill did not know.

I will explain a little more about the Keckley F. History, processioning of data. It looks like we will not be compiling for 20 or 30 years yet. There are at present 3 historians and a General Genealogist - so engaged. I have been working on this history for only about 5 1/2 years. The Gen'l Genealogist about 8 years - at present we have catalogued probably over 9,000 ancestors and descendants. I alone - have added over 4,000 in my 5 1/2 years, or almost 1/2 of our total. I put in about 3 years on the Keckley Bohn. ONLY, and while doing so - ran into a Kackley Bohn, out in Nebraska, who changed his last name to Keckley - and at that time he had 8 children, ranging in age from 6 to 22 years - and they all became Keckley(s) without any legal procedure EXCEPT the oldest s on who applied